

May 21, 2020

Chair Brad Sperling
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8
Sent via email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Chair Sperling:

Brad

Thank you for your letter regarding supports for low-income seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate your taking the time to write on behalf of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost every aspect of people's lives, and our government's top priority is to keep British Columbians safe and provide them with the support they need during this unprecedented and challenging time.

To assist low-income seniors in BC, the Province is providing a \$300 crisis supplement for April, May and June 2020 to eligible seniors who receive the BC Senior's Supplement. Our government is also boosting the Climate Action Tax Credit to provide recipients with a one-time enhanced payment in July 2020 of up to \$218 per adult. Additionally, we have made temporary changes to the Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters program to support new and existing clients who experience a loss of employment income due to COVID-19.

We have also increased funding to both the United Way and bc211 to expand services and help seniors throughout the province stay safe and get the support they need to stay home. The new Safe Seniors, Strong Communities Program matches seniors who need support with non-medical essentials, such as delivering groceries and medications, social interaction and more, to volunteers in their community who are willing to help.

In addition to these provincial supports, the Government of Canada has announced a number of measures to support low-income individuals and seniors, including a one-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for

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seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). I see that you have already provided a copy of your letter to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and your local Member of Parliament, and I encourage you to maintain your dialogue with the relevant officials regarding federal supports.

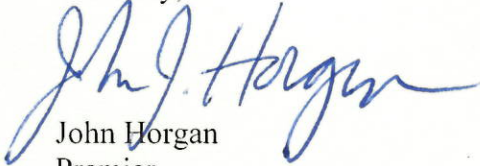
As you are aware, Community pharmacies are privately-run businesses with an obligation to manage their stock responsibly. As a result of the pandemic, pharmacies faced increased demands for some drugs and in order manage their supply, pharmacies may have reduced the dispensing intervals for some drugs. While the Ministry of Health has directed pharmacies to dispense a full 90-day supply for appropriate prescriptions when feasible, the decision to dispense a smaller amount than the prescription indicates is ultimately made by an individual pharmacy or its parent corporation.

On your behalf, I have shared your letter with the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, for their review and consideration. Please be assured that your comments will be included in any related discussions going forward.

Our government is committed to supporting and protecting British Columbians and keeping our economy strong as we adjust to the new normal and move forward with BC's Restart Plan. We will get through this together.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



John Horgan
Premier

cc: Honourable Carole James
Honourable Adrian Dix



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

April 29, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of BC
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Mr. Bob Zimmer, MP
Prince George – Peace River – Northern Rockies
710 Valour Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: Bob.Zimmer@parl.gc.ca

Re: Assistance for Low-Income Seniors

Dear Prime Minister, Premier and Mr. Zimmer,

On behalf of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board, I would like to express concerns regarding the financial inability of low-income seniors to sustain themselves during COVID-19.

We are proud of the residents and businesses in the PRRD. Local businesses have changed their hours to provide segregated shopping times for seniors and those with disabilities only. Our seniors are staying at home and minimizing their grocery shopping trips, which impacts their ability to shop at several stores or shop more regularly to take advantage of the sales they so depend on due to their limited incomes. Further, our seniors are paying pharmacy dispensing fees monthly rather than once every three months as not all pharmacies are able to fill prescriptions for a full three month period.

We respectfully request your consideration of our concerns and further support low-income seniors during these challenging times.

Yours Truly,

Brad Sperling
Chair

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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